

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Edward S. Mao (Reg # 40,713) on 11/4/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, (Currently Amended) A method of segmenting an image having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

using a processor to perform the steps of:

dividing the image into a plurality of sticks of pixels, wherein each stick contains at least two pixels;

determining whether each stick belongs to any region from a set of region; and

classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions, wherein the classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions comprises:

determining whether any member of a set of previously processed sticks belong to any region;

assigning an earliest region identifier of a set of previously processed sticks to the current stick When a member of the set of previously processed sticks belongs to any region and the current stick belongs to any region; and

assigning a new region identifier to the current stick when the current stick belongs to any region and no member of the set of previously processed sticks belongs to any region.

Claim 15, (currently amended) A method of segmenting an image having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

using a processor to perform the steps of:

dividing the image into a plurality of sticks of pixels, wherein each stick contains at least two pixels;

determining whether each stick belongs to any region from a set of region;

classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions; and

characterizing each region of the set of regions, wherein the characterizing each region of the set of regions comprises computing rectified moments for each region using a weighting table and unrectified image data.

Claim 18, (Currently Amended) A method of segmenting an image having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

using a processor to perform the steps of:

dividing the image into a plurality of sticks of pixels, wherein each stick contains at least two pixels;

determining whether each stick belongs to any region from a set of region; and

classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions, wherein each stick belongs to only one region, wherein the classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions comprises:

determining whether any member of a set of previously processed sticks belong to any region;

assigning an earliest region identifier of a set of previously processed sticks to the current stick when a member of the set of previously processed sticks belongs to any region and the current stick belongs to any region; and

assigning a new region identifier to the current stick when the current stick belongs to any region and no member of the set of previously processed sticks belongs to any region.

Claim 32, (Currently Amended) A method of segmenting an image having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

using a processor to perform the steps of:

dividing the image into a plurality of sticks of pixels, wherein each stick contains at least two pixels;

determining whether each stick belongs to any region from a set of region;

classifying each stick that belongs to any region as belonging to a specific region of the set of regions, wherein each stick belongs to only one region; and

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characterizing each region of the set of regions, wherein the characterizing each region of the set of regions comprises computing rectified moments for each region using a weighting table and unrectified image data.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on 10/6/08 has been entered and made of record.

Claims 11, 28, 45 and 62 are canceled.

Claims 1-10, 12- 27, 29 - 44, 46- 61 and 63- 68 are pending in the application.

In response to Applicant's remarks filed on 10/6/08 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection under 102(e) has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3 Applicant's arguments filed on 10/6/08 have been fully considered and are persuasive see remarks on page 16 - 20, with respect to claims 1-10, 12-14, 18-27, 29-31, 35 - 44, 46 - 48, 52- 61, 63- 65 under 102(b) rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn and claims 1-10, 12-27, 29 - 44, 46- 61 and 63 - 68 are now allowed.

Reason For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-10, 12- 27, 29 - 44, 46- 61 and 63- 68 are allowed.

As pointed out by the applicant in the remark, see page 16-20, filed 10/6/08 with respect to claims 1-10, 12-14, 18-27, 29-31, 35 - 44, 46 - 48, 52- 61, 63- 65 have been fully considered and as a result amended claims 1, 12, 15, 18, 29, 32, 35, 46, 49, 52, 63 and 66 is now indicated allowable, as they include allowable subject matter of the objected claims 11, 15- 17, 28, 32-34, 45, 49-51, 62, and 66-68 as

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pointed out in the last office action. Claims 1-10, 12- 27, 29 - 44, 46- 61 and 63- 68 has been withdrawn from the rejection and are allowed.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted on later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, comments on statement of reasons for allowance.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEELA C. CHAWAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7446. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30- 5.00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sheela C Chawan/

11/9/08

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

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